

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 76, NUMBER 8, August 2025

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

The Friendliest Club Around

Celebrating 88 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*<http://www.paara.org/>

Amateur Radio at Columbia University History to Present Day Jacob Boxerman, KE2CZX

I am a senior at Columbia University studying computer science, with an interest in radio. I restarted the Columbia Space Initiative's High-Altitude Balloons program and have made amateur radio an important part of our mission.

In my presentation I will discuss the Columbia Space Initiative's use of amateur radio in our High-Altitude Balloons mission. We built a very low budget APRS tracker for use with a launch, and over the past semester we designed micro HF trackers for use on lightweight balloons.

In addition, I will share the history of Columbia's amateur radio club, W2AEE, one of the oldest college clubs in the country.

**This meeting will be a
Hybrid Meeting
Zoom and In Person**

Time: Aug 1, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time
Please check <https://www.paara.org> for
Zoom Details

Upcoming Events

Aug 1 Sept 5 Oct 3	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM to ~9:30PM Zoom and In Person Meeting.
Aug 20 Sept 17 Oct 15	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details.



President's Corner

Happy summer everyone! This is the first PAARAgraphs since Field Day 2025, so we're doing something a little different this month. We're including a scrapbook of some of the photos that we took during the Field Day activities to remind us of how much fun we had last month, and to create a fun record so in the future when people look back at old issues of PAARAgraphs, they can see what we were doing at Field Day this year. Thanks to



(President — Continued on page 2)

Question
of the
MONTH

What does the RIT (sometimes called "clarify") function do on a radio?

(President — Continued from page 1)

Marty, W6NEV for contributing his thoughts about Field Day this year as well. I hope you enjoy this month's Field Day retrospective.

There were some interesting items in the ARRL Member Bulletin this month. The ARRL Board approved a year-long celebration of the semiquincentennial of the United States. This will include commemorative ARRL US250 Worked All States awards from contacts made during 2026, as well as other on-air activity. The Board also approved making 2026 the Year of the Club and passed other motions in support of the initiative including creating a book of high performance clubs, recognizing clubs with high ARRL membership levels, and working with and recognizing outstanding club web sites. We'll keep an eye on these developments and make sure that PAARA participates and is recognized where appropriate. Lastly, the ARRL Historical Committee met to review the ARRL Heritage Museum's online collection, Radio Alpha, which currently features more than 3,000 images and documents. The repository is now online and can be found at www.arrl.org/arrrl-museum-and-research-library. I hadn't seen this collection before, but it looks like a fun way to generate some nostalgia and you might enjoy exploring it as well.

A quick note about some upcoming activities. PAARA will be making a field trip to the USS Hornet on August 23rd (see page 10 for details) and we will be doing a PAARA in the Park event on September 13th. Note that PAARA in the Park will be at Rengstorff Park in Mountain View rather than our usual location in Cupertino. Look for more information about both events on paara.org over the coming weeks.

I hope to see you at the next meeting on August 1st, either IRL or on Zoom! If you're there in person, please join us after the meeting for pizza and lively conversation at Mountain Mike's across the parking lot. We'd love for you to join us!

73, Bob KN6YGN

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

A Comment on Field Day 2025

Field Day 2025! What a wonderful, frustrating contest. Yeah, the ARRL says it's not a contest, but an operating event designed to show the public and public officials the ability Ham Radio has to assist in local, state, and national disasters. To the avid ham, it's a contest!

For many clubs, the challenge is to set up a wholly self-contained ham radio station in an environment not really amenable to the operation of radios, the equipment required to make communications possible, and the support services needed to make the event possible. PAARA annually sets up in beautiful Bedwell Bayfront Park at the east end of Marsh Road, Menlo Park CA, an ex-garbage dump that overlooks much of the South San Francisco Bay.

There is a great view of the East Bay hills, the smell of the salty bay, the salt ponds and tidal flats, along with the hot days, cold nights, squirrel holes, bugs, calm mornings and windy afternoons, all designed to make one ask, why here, why me, is this really fun? Well, it is fun, really fun! It's not because there are no challenges but because there are challenges.

Field Day brings members of our radio club together to face these challenges of setting up antennas, operating positions, a food court and everything else needed to make this event possible. This is why it's fun, people working together for the specific purpose of making as many radio contacts as possible along with collecting bonus points for other sundry radio contact opportunities within a 24-hour operating window. It is an operating event that really smells like a contest.

I'm not mentioning names here for fear of leaving someone out, but thanks to the field day coordinator, the station captains, the food court coordinator, and the many other club members and non-members, who made this 2025 Field Day event a success regardless of where we land in the operating event rankings.

I'm tired, sore, a little sunburned, my clothes and car are filthy, but I can't wait for Field Day 2026, an operating event that really smells like a contest.

Marty, W6NEV,
Proud member of PAARA



Antenna raising party.
Everybody grab a guy wire!

Climbing the tower to
secure the big antenna.



The view from atop the big antenna.

Cisco brought their Crisis Response Truck
to demonstrate their capability and make
some contacts.



PAARAgaphs — August 2025
Celebrating 88 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937



Working the GOTA station.



Working FT4 and FT8 at the digital station.



Getting a drone demonstration from Menlo Park Fire.



Enjoying some shade and great food at the hospitality area!



Setting up the satellite station antennas.



Working the satellite station.



We saw a row of what we think are Starlink satellites while stargazing during the night.



Evening shade and discussion about the day's activities.



Late night conversation, hot chocolate, and coffee.



Waking up in the early morning and waiting for coffee.



Field Day is all about teamwork!



All packed up and ready for a nap. See you at Field Day 2026!

July Board Meeting Minutes

Present were: President Bob Ridenour KN6YGN, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Margaret Cooper K6WEK, Directors Sorin Constantinescu KN6YUH, Doug Teter KG6LWE, Walt Gyger K6WGY. Also attending were Clark Martin KK6ISP and Ben Glick KN6UBF.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. A quorum was present.

Officer Reports

- President's Report (Bob):
 - Our ARRL affiliated clubs entry needs to be updated. I will do that this week.
 - I have stamps and mailing labels for PAARAgaphs from Ric. I'll mail the PAARAgaphs when they are printed.
- Secretary's Report (Ric):
 - Club Call Trustees: 3 of our licenses have been updated with the FCC. W6ARA is due for renewal in January: We can start that process 90 days before expiration.
 - Membership: With several new members who joined us at PAARA in the Park, Field Day, or a PAARA meeting, we now have 207 active members! Many of our members elect to receive the newsletter by e-mail. Please let me know (secretary@paara.org) if you want to get the colorful PDF.
 - The board agreed to prototype a way to automate generation of the member roster and related lists from the master list maintained by the Secretary in order to keep the lists updated and in sync.
- Treasurer's Report (Margaret):
 - The State has confirmed that our documentation as a charitable organization is current. Margaret will update our filing this week.
 - The bookkeeping subcommittee will meet in the next few weeks.
 - Costs from Field Day: Total expenses for this year's Field Day were \$2240.31. This included food, the new shelters and cookers, porta-potty, and truck rental.

Standing Items

- PAARAgaphs Newsletter:
 - Encourage members to draft PAARAgaphs submissions when they talk about an interesting experience. Mention to members that when they tell you a story about something that would be of interest to members, they should draft it into an article.
 - This month will include a Field Day story submitted by Marty W6NEV and a scrapbook of photos and captions from Field Day.
- Education Committee [Darryl]
 - August question of the month:
 - ◆ Proposal: On a radio, what does the RIT function do?

- ◆ Next month, we will have questions relevant to our field trip to the USS Hornet.
- September PAARA in the Park activity:
 - ◆ Date is confirmed for 9/13 at Rengstorff Park in Mountain View
 - ◆ The board approved the purchase of 21 'blinky light' soldering project kits from Jameco.
 - ◆ Decision on the final project pricing was postponed until final cost is understood. The board approved a charge of either \$15.00 or \$20.00 pending final accounting of expected expenses.
 - ◆ Enough coaching volunteers have signed up to support 20 participants.
 - ◆ We will have a kitting/orientation day for volunteers - date is TBD.
 - ◆ We may offer a few solder-free breadboard kits as a separate project. This will be determined in the next few weeks.
- Field Trip to USS Hornet [Rob]
 - Date is Saturday, August 23, 2025
 - There won't be any pre-scheduled group activities or pre-purchased group tickets. We'll plan to meet up at a few points during the day.
 - We'll put a note in PAARAgaphs about the field trip and will also send an email notice to announcements@paara.org.
- IT Subcommittee Updates [Sorin]
 - The Discord server is full of lively conversations, and we invite all our members to give it a try. We're currently at 83 members, and we hope to see you all there! PAARA is the only club in the area with a Discord channel!
 - The Webmasters are busy at work, keeping the website content up to date. If you have any website feedback, please email webmaster@paara.org.
 - Two new email groups have been created: a public one for PAARAgaphs submissions (paaragraphs@paara.org) and a private one for PAARAgaphs editors only.
 - Newest club members have been added to the PAARA Announcements list.
- Coffee Duty [Bob/Sorin]
 - The board discussed the preferred size for coffee cups, as we will need to replenish our supply. The board agreed to stick with the 10 oz size.
- PAARAgaphs Advertising [Walt]
 - Micro Center is now open! Bob will visit Micro Center and Central Computer in person to solicit their advertising.
- 900 MHz repeater status [Christopher]
 - UPS batteries have been replaced.
 - We have a replacement armored ethernet cable to

(Minutes — Continued on page 8)

(Minutes — Continued from page 7)

prevent further rodent damage.

- o Our Allstar and Echolink nodes, the AREDN dish, and the repeaters are all using the call W6OTX.
- Status of Radio loaner program [Doug]
 - o The board agreed to put information about the radio loaner program on the PAARA website, so that members are aware of the opportunity.

New Business

- Field Day Recap:
 - o Jim sent the FD filing for this year (along with the one from last year)
 - ◆ Fewer overall points this year (due to fewer contacts)
 - ◆ Significantly more bonus points, though.
 - ◆ More participants than last year (even though we had fewer contacts made). We are happy with the increased participation! More important than the score.
 - ◆ Next year, station captains will be pushing for more scheduled operators, especially in the nighttime hours.
 - o Major items of feedback to discuss:
 - ◆ Coordination with the city: Menlo Park city involvement was modest, and we want to continue with a good relationship.
 - ◆ Shelters vs. U-Haul trucks: The new shelter for the GOTA station worked quite well. We may choose to eliminate the U-Haul trucks, and add more shelters. No decision was reached, but Doug will do some more research.
 - ◆ Chairs: We need more chairs for the hospitality area. We will look at some options for folding chairs and decide. The chairs for the radio stations are OK for now.
 - ◆ Club Laptop Replacement:
 - ◇ The current laptops are several years old, and they are showing their age.
 - ◇ Bob has evaluated several options for replacement, including used, refurbished, and new computers.
 - ◇ After reviewing the options, the board agreed that we should buy new Lenovo V15 laptops. These come with a quad-core (8 thread) processor, 16GB of RAM, 512 GB SSD, and the required ports (USB, HDMI). They can also be charged over USB-C with common power adapters.
 - ◇ We don't have a formal quote, but 5 computers should cost about \$2000, all in.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ric Hulett N6AJS
PAARA Secretary
DR



July Winners

Left to Right

Bob, KN6YGN, Jordan, WA2BRV, Sorin, KN6YUH,
 Doug, KO6FJ



5th DTAPE Laser
 distance Meter



4th 220 MHz J-Pole
 Antenna



3rd DC Pry Bar Multi-
 tool with
 Bi-Directional
 Ratchet



2nd USB Cable Tester
 with 2.4" Color
 Screen



1st ZEEWII DSO₃D12.2
 CH, 120.MHz Os-
 cilloscope/Function
 Generator

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Bob Ridenour, KN6YGN	650-575-4528
	kn6ygn@paara.org	
Vice President.....	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD	650-888-9060
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	n6ajs@paara.org	
Treasurer	Margaret Cooper, K6WEK	
	k6wek@paara.org	

Directors

Director ('24-'25)	Sorin Constantinescu, KN6YUH,	
	kn6yuh@paara.org	
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	k6wgy@paara.org	
Director ('25)	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	kg6lwe@paara.org	
Director ('25)	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@paara.org	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	n6ajs@paara.org	
Database.....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	n6ajs@paara.org	
Station Trustee.....	K6OTA SORIN CONSTANTINESCU,	
	KN6YUH	
Property Manager	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	
Badge Coordinator.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
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Raffle Coordinator.....	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD,	
	kc6tyd@paara.org	
Field Day Coordinator.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
ASVARO Rep	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@sonic.net	
Webmasters.....	webmaster@paara.org	
Technical Coordinator.....	Christopher, AI6KG	408-348-0304
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QSL Manager.....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
Speaker Coordinator...	Rob Fenn, kc6tyd	650-888-9060

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Technical Tips.....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	

VE Exams

De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org>

Electronics Flea Market (EFM)

Sponsorship: Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations (ASVARO). The Electronics Flea Market is held at West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga.

Website: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See website at <http://www.paara.org>. For more information. contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, kd6w@arri.net, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:00pm at Covington School, Los Altos.

Website: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00pm each month, Repeater for member info 147.360. Contact president@ncdxc.org. Website: <http://ncdxc.org>. YouTube content: "The Northern California DX Club Official Channel". Cohost of the International DX Convention.

The 50MHz & Up Group of Northern California

This organization specializes in vhf + wak signal and microwave activities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Time is usually 5pm for in person meetings, and 7pm for Zoom only meetings. In person meetings are held Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale. Always check the website, <http://50MhzandUp.org>, for correct information. Zoom information is also there.

San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3rd Friday, January through November. Tuesdays & Thursdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz, -600KHz, PL107.2Hz
Contact: SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com, Website: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System users Group

Meets each Monday 7:30pm and 8:00pm.
See: <https://specsnet.org/monday-night-net> for more info.
Contact: <https://www.specsnet.org/contact> or board@specsnet.org

SCARES

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650- 595-5590 (N)
Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl
Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.
Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.
ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)
Website: <http://www.svecs.net> or contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF: 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

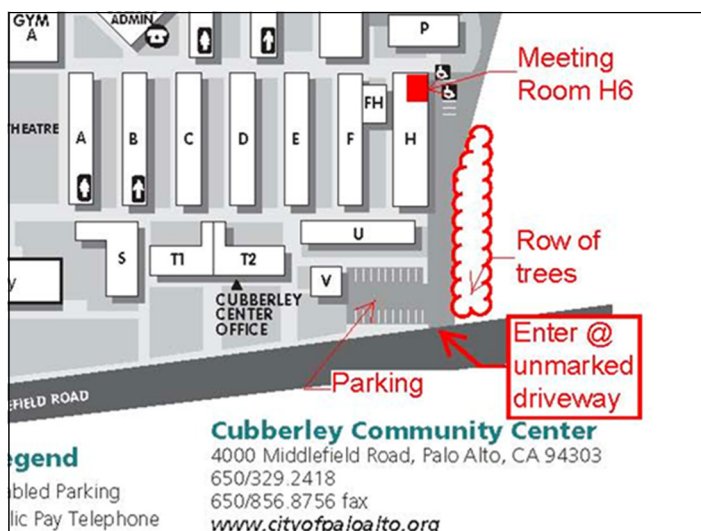
Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.

Website: <http://wvara.org>, Contact: info@wvara.org

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)

PAARA Field Trip to the USS Hornet Sea, Air, and Space Museum

Save the date! PAARA will be visiting the USS Hornet on August 23rd! We are not able to reserve specific tours for PAARA on that date, so members will be responsible for purchasing their own admission and tour spots from the USS Hornet web site or at the museum. You may recall that Geoff Abreu K6ERA made a presentation on The USS Hornet and amateur radio on the USS Hornet at the October 2024 meeting. Geoff's presentation can be viewed at <https://paara.org/meetings/2024/202410.html>. Look for more information and details about the field trip on paara.org.



**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road
between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo
Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road**



PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session
every Monday evening at 8:30pm
on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week Control Operator

1 st	Doug - KG6LWE
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Ric - N6AJS
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
5 th	Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.

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Email: KARLDRESDEN@juno.com

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month,
7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at
8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year,
which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs
\$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

Make payment to the
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 the bottom of the page and fill out
 the info. All badges will be mailed.

The cost for a badge is \$30.00.

PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). **All ad rates listed are per issue.**

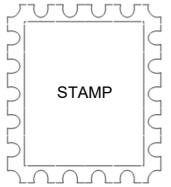
1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
 2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.

All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. **Give payment and copy to Walt Gyger, K6WGY.**

PAARAgaphs — August 2025

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
PAARAgaphs Newsletter
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FT-3185RASP | Heavy-Duty 85W 2M FM Transceiver

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FTM-150RASP | 2M/430MHz FM True Dual Band Xciv

- Dual Receivers (V-U, U-U, U-V, U-V) Operator • 55W VHF & 50W UHF • Heavy Duty Real Sink w/Universal RF Connection Conductor • Front & Rear Body Speaker for 6W High Quality Audio



FTM-510DRASP C&F/N/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band Xciv

- New Super-DX A&P Inductive Digital Signal Processor Unit • True Dual Band Receiver (V-U/U-U, U-V/U-V) • C&F/N C&F/N Digital D-D Dual Receiver • 2.4" High-Res Full-Color Touch-Panel Display • Wireless Operation Capability with Optional Bluetooth® Header



FT-60R | VHF/UHF Rugged Dual Band

- Over 1000 Memory Channels • Wide Bank Receiver Coverage • High Power Output 5 Watts • High CO Display • 100% Secure Weather Alert with Alert Scan



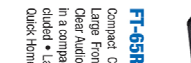
FT-70DR C&F/N/FM 144/430MHz Xciv

- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select: detects C&F/N or FM Audio and Switches Accordingly • 1000 1, 105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



FT-5DR C&F/N/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

- High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-in Bluetooth® Unit • Built-in High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/800bps AFSK Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C&F/N Digital • Micro SD Card Slot



FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

- Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Portable RF Power With-in a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charge Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



VX-6R | VHF/UHF Dual Band Hand-Held

- Big-Radio Features in a Compact Package • Wide-Band Receiver Coverage for Catching All the Action • 900-Channel 24-Bank Memory System • Outdoor-Ready Features Including Waterproof Rating • Smart Search Automatic 51-Channel Scanning/Locking System



RETAIL LOCATIONS - Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday

- PHONE - Toll-free phone hours 8:30AM - 5:30PM
- ONLINE - WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
- FAX - All store locations
- MAIL - All store locations

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